

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraphs [0023] to [0025] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0023] With reference to FIG. 2, there is shown a side elevational schematic view of a basic feeder assembly 30, incorporating aspects of the present exemplary embodiment. The basic components of the feeder assembly 30 include a stack of sheets 52 in a sheet support tray 54, multiple tray elevators 56, 58, a stack height sensor 60, a take away roll 62, at least one sheet fluffer (or blower) 64, and a vacuum feed head 66. The feed head 66 includes an acquisition surface 68. The fluffer 64 blows air at the top sheets of paper in the stack 52. This is done to separate the sheets from the stack 52 and to make them more easily acquired by the feed head 66. The air pressure of the fluffer 64 is typically controlled to a predetermined value. The speed of the blower motor 70 for the tray 54 is preset via the brushless DC blower motor input voltage level, while the air flow is metered through a stepper controlled restriction valve ~~(not shown)~~ 65 to different levels. These levels correspond to the levels needed for light to heavy weight paper requirements.

[0024] The substrate feeder module 14 includes a heater ~~(not shown)~~ 67 for preheating the fluffer air and assisting in sheet separation. The heater is generally enabled to be turned on and off, since they are only allowed to be "on" if air is ~~not~~ moving through them.

[0025] The substrate feeder module 14 preferably employs shuttle feeder technology, which at a simplified level is merely using vacuum corrugated feeders that physically translate the sheet from the stack to the takeaway rolls. The vacuum feed level is a significant feeding control parameter. For example, the vacuum may be supplied from individual brushless DC blowers 69 for each feed head 66. There is typically a stepper motor controlled vacuum valve 71 in the vacuum duct between the fluffer 64 and the feed head 66, which throttles down or restricts the amount of air that is available at the feed head 66. This is generally machine controlled, and it is virtually continuously adjustable. The feed vacuum level may be controlled through the vacuum valves.